

-2-

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS section beginning at page 8, line 12 and ending on page 10, line 24 with the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of preferred embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

Fig. 1 is an exploded schematic view of a first embodiment of a hearing aid according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the assembled hearing aid shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram, partly in block diagram form, of the components of a hearing aid according to the present invention;

Fig. 4A is a flow chart diagram showing a method of assembling the hearing aid of the present invention;

Fig. 4B is a plan view of packaging used to ensure inadvertent activation of the hearing aid during transport;

Fig. 4C is a plan view of alternative packaging used to ensure inadvertent activation of the hearing aid during transport;

Figs. 5A and 5B are charts showing the various responses of the amplifier circuit which can be used in a hearing aid according to the present invention;

Figs. 6A, 6B, and 6C are sectional views of an alternative embodiment of a hearing aid according to the present invention showing an on/off air block switch;

Fig. 6D is an isometric view of a hearing aid employing an alternative switch to turn the hearing aid "on" and "off";

Fig. 6E is an enlarged perspective view of a pull cord and insulating member used to form the switch of Fig. 6D;

-3-

Figs. 6F and 6G are partial isometric views illustrating "on" and "off" positions of the hearing aid of Fig. 6D;

Fig. 6H is an enlarged perspective view of the pull cord and insulating member, as shown in Fig. 6E, and a stopping member of the hearing aid;

Fig. 6I is a partial end view of the hearing aid of Fig. 6D illustrating an alternative faceplate having compound curves;

Fig. 7 illustrates an automatic "on" only switch for use with a pull tab seal on the battery of a disposable hearing aid;

Figs. 8A-8C illustrate a hearing aid having a rechargeable battery;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of an alternative embodiment of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention particularly illustrating an inventive power source;

Fig. 10 is a plan view of an embodiment of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a partial cross-sectional view of the hearing aid of Fig. 10;

Fig. 12 illustrates an embodiment of an inventive battery particularly showing the bottom of the anode can;

Fig. 13 illustrates the inventive battery of Fig. 12 particularly illustrating the top of the cathode can;

Fig. 14 illustrates the inventive battery of Figs. 12 and 13 positioned in the hearing aid shells in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 15 is similar to Fig. 14 which further includes the receiver and microphone position within the shells;

Fig. 16 is a cross-sectional view of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention particularly illustrating the cross-sectional shape of one embodiment of the battery;

Fig. 17 is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention particularly illustrating an elliptical cross-sectional shape of an alternative battery;

Fig. 18 is yet another embodiment of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention particularly illustrating a plastic battery;

-4-

Fig. 19 illustrates a further embodiment of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention particularly illustrating an alternative anode design;

Figs. 20 and 21 illustrate an embodiment of a quick-connect mechanism for use in a hearing aid of the present invention;

Figs. 22 and 23 are schematics of a switch mechanism used to select and activate a hearing aid battery;

Fig. 24 is a schematic of an alternative switch mechanism used to select and activate a hearing aid battery;

Fig. 25 is a schematic of another alternative switch mechanism used to select and activate a hearing aid battery; and

Fig. 26 is a partial schematic of a hearing aid in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 27 illustrates a behind-the-ear (BTE) type hearing aid.

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 10-20 with the following replacement paragraph:

In accordance with other aspects of the invention, the entire housing or shell of a more visible hearing aid 10, such as a behind-the-ear (BTE) type hearing aid (as shown in Fig. 27), can be formed from a substantially transparent or translucent material which can also be tinted, i.e., colored. In any of the embodiments disclosed herein, it is desirable to conceal the internal components of the hearing aid or to make them as inconspicuous as possible when worn by the user. Components of the microphone, receiver, circuitry, and the battery typically include shiny silver-colored metal such as stainless steel. With a substantially transparent or translucent shell or faceplate, these components would be easily visible and preclude making the hearing aid less conspicuous. Conventional hearing aids have not encountered this problem as the shell is typically opaque thereby completely obscuring the internal components.